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**Ketchikan Mail Delivery**

THE Ketchikan Chronicle hopes that the committee of three due there next week to survey the possibilities of mail delivery in the town "will do a scientific and objective job of their assignment instead of stool-sitting, political study as was done by the Kentuckian (who claimed to be a postal inspector) here two years ago."

The Kentuckian hit town says the Chronicle in an optimistic mood, saying there was no reason why there couldn't and shouldn't be free delivery in town once a day as there is in the states. But after he left he was satisfied to recommend some drop boxes here and there around town and possibly a sub-post office. He apparently encountered some opposition from within the local post office and perhaps from adjoining business houses that like to see the foot traffic past their door to the post office.

This time, it appears, conditions will be changed. There is no money to build a bigger post office at Ketchikan or even to buy the 1,500 to 2,000 more boxes that will be needed in a couple or three years. Nor would there be a place to put them if the boxes could be purchased.

Another factor has entered in, too. The business houses that once opposed the delivery now realize that newcomers will want it and, if it is not available in Ketchikan, perhaps it will be available in Wacker, and some of them will move out there instead of into the First city. So everyone is pitching in to make an attractive community, with better schools and streets and housing, and free mail delivery may be one of the improvements without costing anything—except a penny more on the mail we send out to local persons. Even so, most of that money would stay in town to pay the salaries of the mail carriers.

The Chronicle hopes that, in the interests of progress, everyone will give mail delivery a fair hearing and that any straw vote will be thorough and representative. "Alaskans are paying our share and more of U. S. taxes and it would save some shoe leather and some travelling expense, as well as a lot of time, to have mail delivered once a day, at least in the residential district.

"To say that this would make it easier to order goods by mail is rater fatuous, especially when another mail order house could come here if the town became large enough. Safeway stores already, has tried to buy a downtown location, we are reliably informed. Gradually the town will see new ways of doing business. The new people want it that way, and their progressive demands may help to make the city more livable for us so-called old-timers."

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Reflects and Reminisces

Oil gives British Columbia a resounding wallop and how it will all work out, or what it will lead to, time and work alone will disclose. It's the first time B.C. has felt the magic touch, and it's introduction looks substantial.

Percy Bengough, only recently, was heard to say he fancied a lower wage scale so long as the cost of living was also easier on the eyes. Where's the difference, anyway? Yet, we all like big, or what appears to be big money. If we're paying \$20 for just an ordinary pair of shoes—see what the buyer of the boots is being paid.

Put forcefully and with obvious truth, the Juneau Empire offers the following comment concerning the British election: "Probably the greatest encouragement that troubled 1951 brought to the non-Russian world was the defeat in Britain of the Socialist regime. After six unhappy years, during which the British Empire was reduced to national bankruptcy, her people to socialistic serfdom, her industry to its lowest output and her national prestige to the vanishing point, the embittered Britons were forced to admit that Socialism had flopped."

Twenty years ago, or thereabouts, Prince Rupert people would argue for hours about the Peace River outlet. This was the logical natural port for that purpose. It was a favorite debating point. And perhaps we're right, only then, not a single soul said a word about oil.

It might be a good idea, if you want to end your financial problems not to purchase anything you can't buy for cash.

Officially, Montreal's population is slightly in excess of a million. There's one thing noticed about that city. It is what the people do with winter. They have always had the knack of playing with it or finding some sort of entertainment just because it is winter, instead of lamenting the season until waiting for summer.

Let's see now! Why all this writing and talking about gentlemanly small boys? Who on earth ever saw one? If, in his early teens he's not tough, something must be explained. He is tough. He likes to think himself that way. He can use soap and water when he wants to or in the event of having to. And from May to August, he doesn't fancy boots and stockings.

**LETTERBOX**

**DEFENDS RUPERT**  
Editor, Daily News,

I just had to write an answer to Rupertite's letter. It boils me up when someone like you makes such statements as she did. Why some of our best nurses in B.C. were born, went to school, and trained in Prince Rupert. A lot of them married here and are now bringing up their families here. I am quite sure they are equally as good at their profession as Rupertite is and none the worse for being brought up here.

Born on the prairies myself and going to school there, I have been living in Rupert for 28 years now, married and have three children attending school here. I have been all through B.C., Eastern Canada and elsewhere on trips and I may say truthfully there is no other place I would rather be than right here in good old Rupert. Some folks come into our peaceful town to try and make all the money they can and at the same time try to make it over and the people, to suit themselves.

But Rupertite, after living here as long as I have, you will learn to like our people very much and find them equally as clean and good living folks as anywhere else. Maybe, when you get older and wiser, you will say, maybe that lady in Rupert was right, that does not pay to run down any town or its residents.

Thank you, Mr. Editor, for your space.

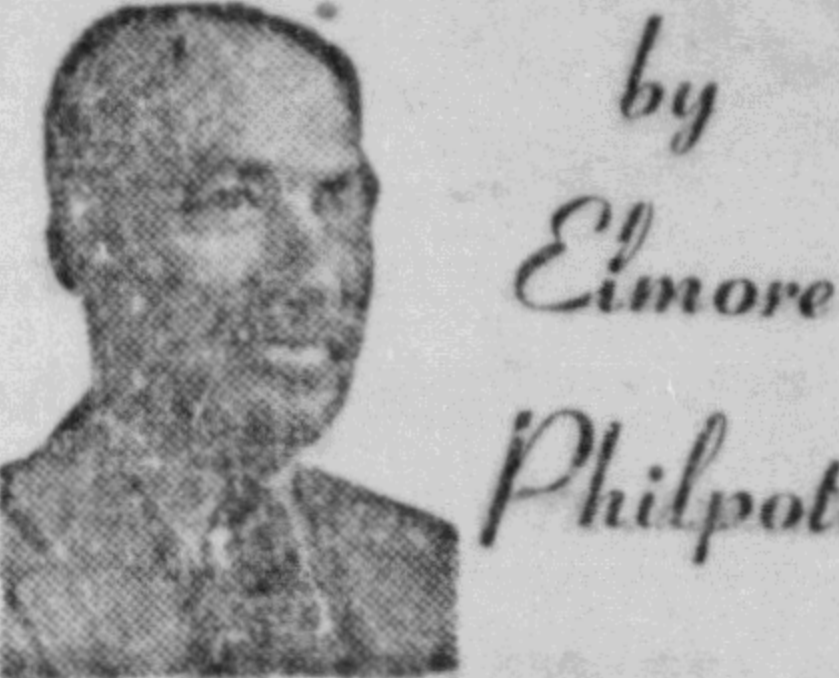
ANOTHER RUPERT BOOSTER.

**Britain Denies Oil Shortage**

LONDON—The British government denied Friday there had been any stoppage of oil pipeline to Cairo although some ships had been held up due to security reasons.

The Cairo government has warned that any stoppage of oil supply would result in revolution.

**As I See It**



**In Britain's Steps**  
TORONTO.—It is a wonderful thing—this modern way of travel. You leave Scotland after dark and you are in Canada before daylight next morning.

But there is a time lag in your mental and spiritual adjustment. It takes a little while to re-adjust yourself to the mental wave length of whatever country you happen to land in.

HERE IN Toronto I pick up the newspaper and read, in comment on the British election that "socialism is everywhere on the wane."

That is a remarkable statement in view of the fact that more votes have been cast for socialism than ever before; also that the victorious Conservative party only emerged victorious (in seats, not votes) because it convinced a sufficient number of voters that it would "leave well enough alone" in regard to such things as the nationalized coal mines, and the state health scheme.

IT IS true that talk of socialism is on the wane in Britain. The Labor party people, by the way, never call themselves socialists.

officially. It is the Tories and Liberals who use the tag "socialists" on every possible occasion to describe their antagonists, because they know there is a hang-over of distaste for the term.

Yet all the time the Conservatives are using the term socialism as a bogeyman they themselves are adopting more and more socialism in practice.

OVER AND over again I heard Mr. Churchill argue that his government—and not Labor—was the one which adopted the principle of the welfare state. He declared that the whole nation had accepted the principle of planned full employment, and that never again under any government would there be great numbers of jobless people.

All of which is proof that the "world does move" in a certain direction. It may not be towards "socialism" in the strict text book definition of that term. But it is certainly toward social welfare and a planned economy. I was mildly surprised to get back to Canada and find that there was an election in the offing here in Ontario. Just now

they are unlimbering the guns which before long will go into action.

But already I notice one significant thing. All three parties in Ontario are competing on the basis of who can promise the best hospital insurance system.

I see in the papers here in Ontario a lot of talk of Saskatchewan's hospital insurance plan, but so far not even a mention of B.C.'s somewhat similar plan.

IT IS no secret that the Liberal government at Ottawa is in the first stages of considering a national health insurance plan for all Canada.

I say "considering" for that is as far as the project has got, to date. It will take several years before it becomes practical immediate politics.

The point is that the social welfare schemes which Britain pioneered are being taken up one by one by us here.

It doesn't matter what you call it—socialism, social welfare or what not. The fact is the whole world is moving toward more of it.

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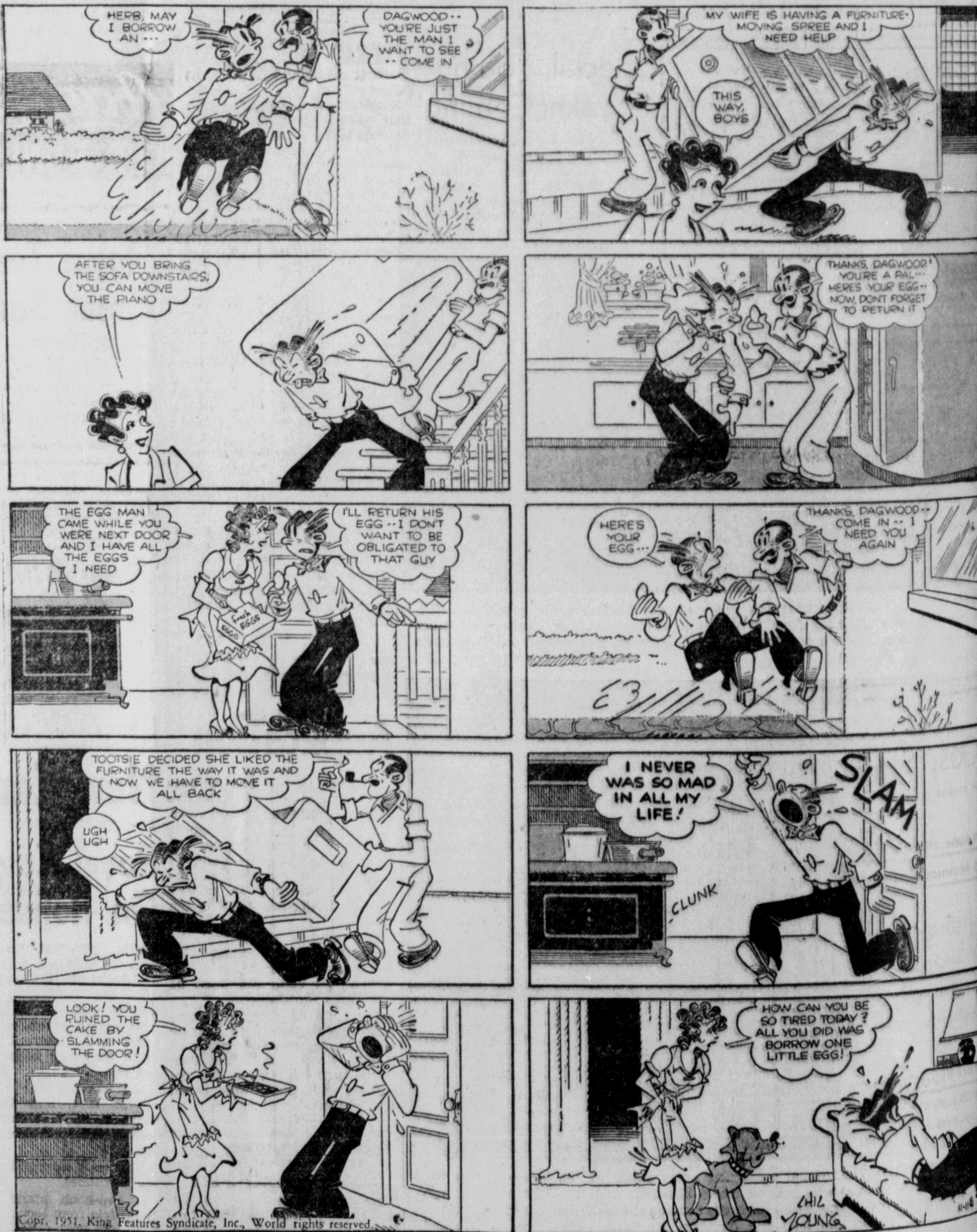
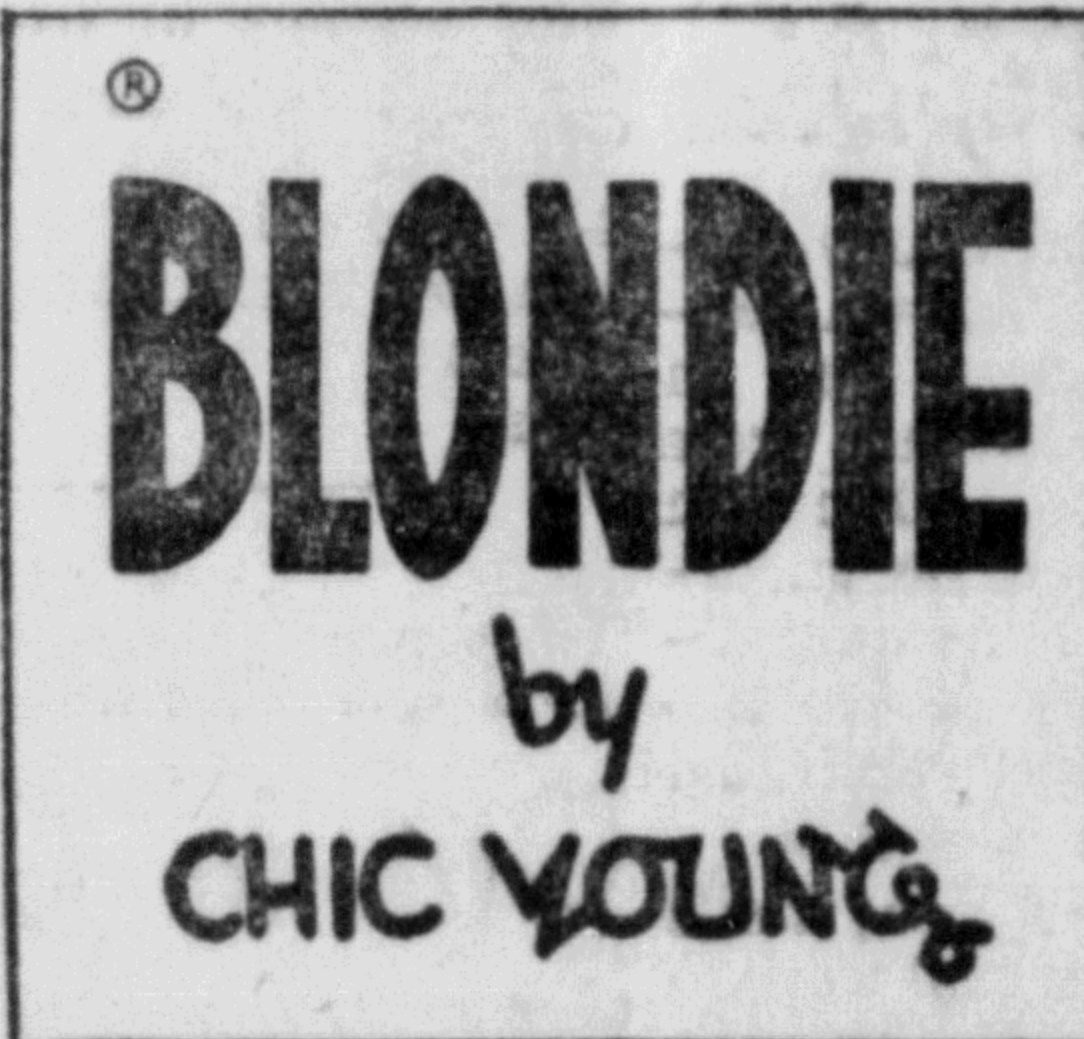
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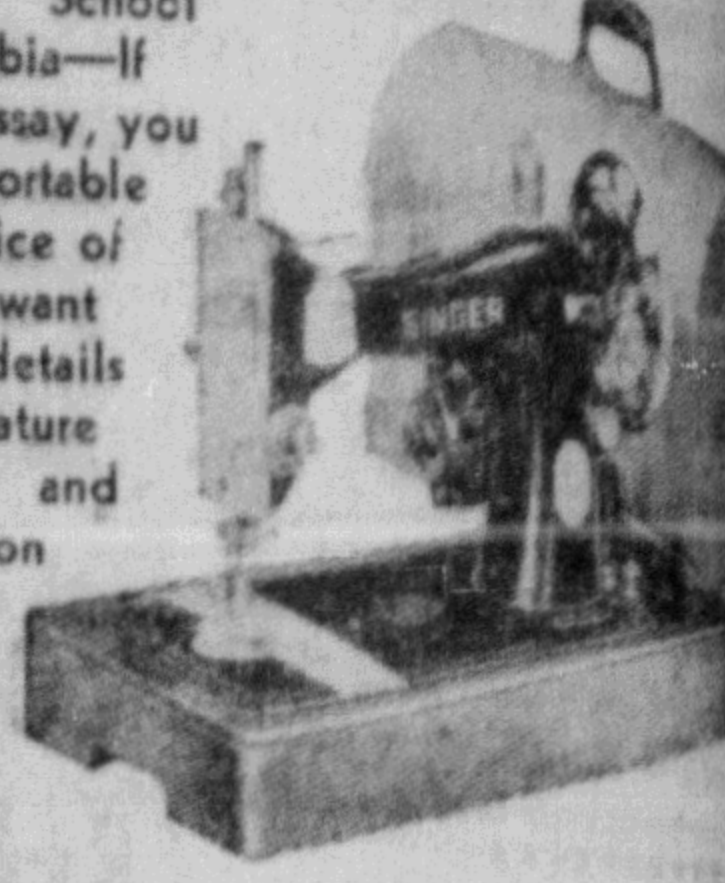
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